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AUTUMN JOYS.

Autumn Joys

Illustrated by Louis K. Hartlow.

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The shadows lengthen on the dusty lane,
The trees grow bare and brown,
The sumac crimsons in the Autumn's sun
Waiting for Winter's frown.
"Like flames upon an altar shine the sheaves,"
The leaves turn red and gold
And Autumn lays her soft and mellowing hand,
On hill and wood and wold.





And yet the autumn eve gives forth some warning,
The sunshine still is here;
On yonder sunny slopes the pumpkins lie
Telling of future cheer,
When house wives, skillful in their cunning arts,
Shall deftly mix and try,
Until the toothsome dainty is achieved—
A golden pumpkin pie.



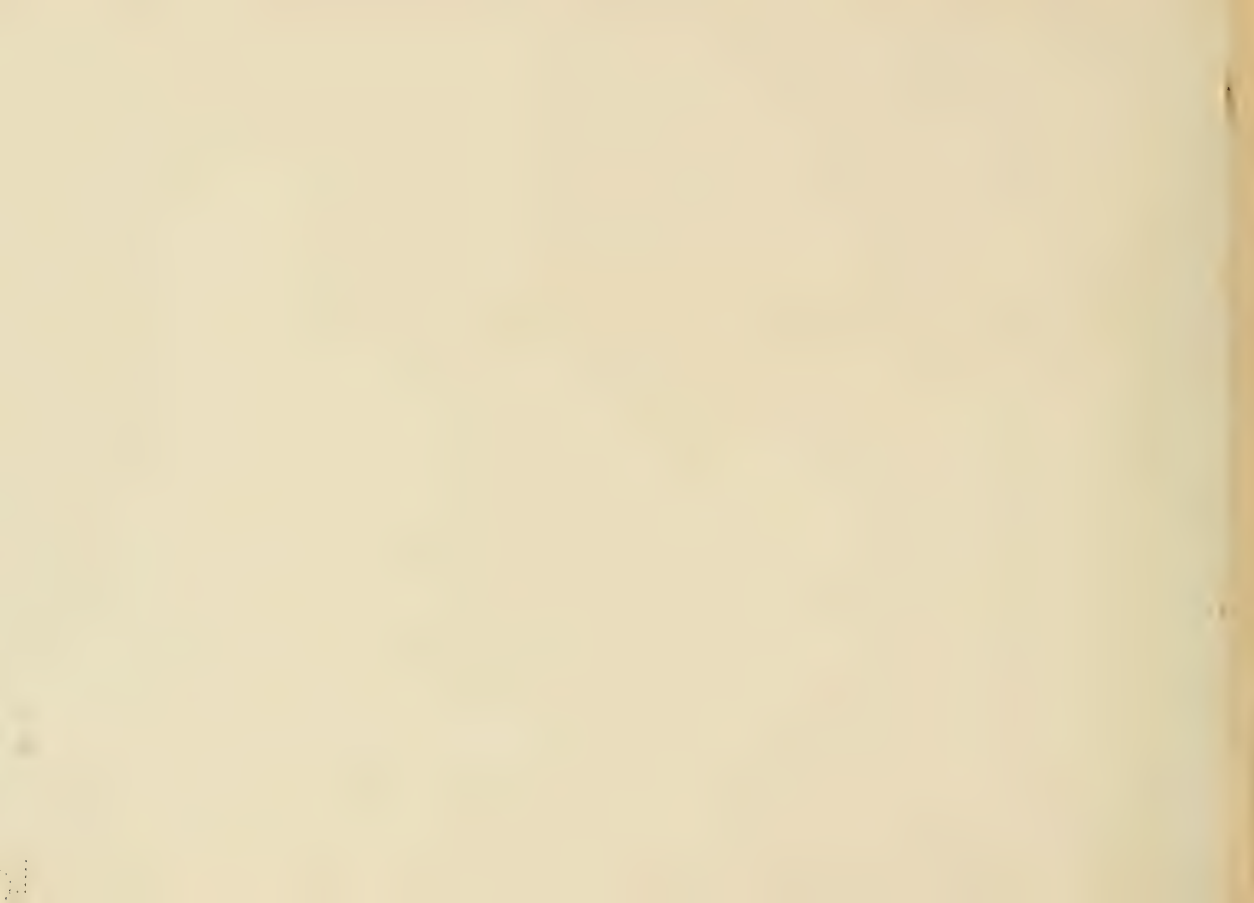




Long since the blossoms on the apple trees
Shed forth their fragrance rare,
Telling of fruitage in their scented breath
Throughout the April air;
Now hang the tempting clusters red and gold,
That hint of liquor clear,
When from the press such juices give they forth
That e'en a king would cheer.









All through fair June the tasselled corn waved;
In shining green arrayed;
The warm, sweet air that bloweth from the south
Its verdure richer made, —
Till now its ripened husks are gathered all
The granary within;
And harvesters are met this Autumn night
To fill the waiting bin.







With laugh and shout the task goes gaily on
And joyful merriment
To find the easy ways that good luck bring
To rustic lovers meek.
The wheat that nodded in the summer days
The buckwheat straight and tall,
And all the grains that fruitful harvest gives
Are heaped against the wall.



The busy squirrels on the old stone-wall,
Are gathering in their lore,
For kernels brown October's sun has burst
That held the shining store.
The hazelnut and beechnut, acorns sweet,
And walnuts, too, are there,
And lads and lassies roam in merry groups
Their sav'ry loads to share.







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